

## Commercial Advertiser

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The Republican convention will do well if it gently sets machine politics aside and throws the party door open to all Republicans. A complete reorganization of the Territorial Committee is one of the things most needed as the local element of that body, with two or three individual exceptions, has done nothing but evolve a row.

There is no desire, and the Advertiser has expressed none, to have the machine Republicans turned out of offices they are qualified to fill. But they ought to be informed, in the spirit of the American civil service law, that holding public office is not compatible with pernicious activity at primaries and conventions and that if they continue to offend in these respects their official heads will fall. Such a rule would become the Dole regime and would be of advantage to its backers.

Speaking of the night schools elsewhere described the fact must not be overlooked that a class of people is reached through these schools which otherwise would have no educational provision made for it and would never be capable of work higher than that of a field hand. Many of the half-grown boys of foreign extraction taught at night in Honolulu have had literally no learning of any kind, sort or description, and do not know "a" from "z" nor the figure 3 from a circle or a cone. They are absolutely ignorant. The night school is a God-send to such as these. The cheerful room and the pleasant teacher are often the sole pleasures in these poor boy's lives. And the pupils go out at the end of the term better able and better equipped in every way from the months of discipline and study gently imparted to them.

### BENEFITS OF FUSION.

If party leadership was wise on both sides in this campaign a fusion Legislative ticket against the Wilcox banditti would ensue. It is plain to any impartial looker-on in our political Vienna that nothing is so calculated to assure the election of the Wilcox men as a division, into two parties, of the opposing side. Assuming that there are enough anti-Wilcox voters to beat him, we cannot go further and say that half their aggregate number can do the work. Yet that is what the people assume who urge that a straight Republican or a straight Democratic ticket can win. They are wrong about it, deplorably wrong, and it ought to be the business of independent Republican and Democratic delegates to tell them so.

If the Democrats would rally on Parker and the Republicans accept a reasonable number of Democratic candidates for the Legislature, there would be a fighting chance. But for the life of us we cannot see where a chance comes in otherwise. In the presence of the aboriginal vote Democrats and Republicans are in two minorities and the Republican minority is torn by factional strife. What can come out of that but defeat? And what possible use is there in trying to conceal the plain truth?

Of course we hear a great deal about "party" as if that counted for anything at this juncture, for the safety of Hawaii. Our people cannot vote for President; they don't even have a vote in Congress. Then why bother so much about "parties," at a time when no one party can poll a majority? The thing to do is to look out for the safety of Hawaii and make sure that its credit is not mired under the dead weight of an anti-haole government. We can understand how various machine politicians, should "party" be sacrificed, might lose the chance of getting small favors from Washington, but neither the Republican nor Democratic party was organized to support them and it makes precious little difference where their political fortunes tend anyhow. But it makes a difference to everybody where the fortunes of Hawaii go. Are we to have Wilcox and stagnation or Anti-Wilcox and progress? Here are the issues and they are the ones which can be settled at the Hawaiian ballot box. We cannot vote for the gold standard or 16 to 1; for protection or free trade; for expansion or contraction, but we can vote to save the land we live in from the worst gang of political anarchists that ever threatened its welfare.

### THE DEAL FOR FUNDS.

The mystery of where the Independent party got its money after the Aloha Aina had refused to let it dip into the funds of that society, has been pretty well cleared up by an Advertiser investigation. We have had admissions from one high in the councils of the Wilcox hui that the campaign funds are supplied by the rich Chinese, the consideration being that a native Legislature shall, if elected, pay the fire claims and so reorganize the Board of Health as to stop what the Asiatics call meddlesome inspections. It was difficult to get this data and its accuracy may be denied, but the Advertiser is satisfied of its essential truth.

How large a contract the natives have made with the Asiatics we can only guess; probably Mr. Wilcox and his friends did not haggle over the price, which, in the nature of things, must have been large. From glimpses had of the fire bills when the abortive Court of Claims was organizing we may safely infer that the sums to be asked of the next Legislature will aggregate more than a million dollars or as much as the internal revenues of the republic of Hawaii amounted to in the last days of its existence. Every man who lost a bag in the Chinatown fire described it as a trunk; a pair of nankeen trousers became silk on the bill, and a couple who had nothing in the way of property but a mosquito netting, a blanket and a set of dice, swore that he owned a \$5000 stock of goods—aid a cloud of Celestial witnesses said it was letting the Government off cheaply. If we can read the signs light the Wilcox party, for value received, agrees to pay the whole thing, whatever it may be—or rather to compel, through Legislative action, the tax-

ing mainly haole whose feelings need no longer count.

One of the most serious features of the Independent deal is that which commits the party to a lax Board of Health. We are not yet ready to credit the threat that such a Board would free the lepers, though the threat has been made and repeated, but that it would stop the present system of thorough sanitary inspections we have no doubt whatever. The Asiatics ask to be left alone in their filth; the Wilcox party is quite willing to leave them there providing they will make it an object—and hence the overflowing coffers of which the Independent party boasts.

The conspiracy reveals to the tax-paying element in these Islands the general spirit of brigandage which the Wilcox movement embodies. It ought to arouse them to united resistance as a matter of self-preservation. It concerns the Wilcox people little how far the haole may be cinched nor how much taxation may be increased. They have everything to gain and nothing to lose. But the taxpayers stand in a widely different relation.

### GERMAN-AMERICAN COMMERCE.

The German-American commercial agreement, bearing as it does on the sugar business, has a local interest which warrants us in making the following extracts from the Literary Digest:

The news that the United States has admitted Germany to the tariff reductions accorded to imports from Europe, Italy, and Portugal has been received with much satisfaction in German commercial circles. Not that the benefits granted to Germany are important, as German wines chiefly are affected; but the agreement is taken as an indication that both the American and the German governments are anxious to avoid a tariff war, and that a satisfactory commercial treaty may be forthcoming. The Freisinnige Zeitung (Berlin) says:

"The political importance of the agreement is much greater than its material value. Germany will receive the reductions of a tariff which grants certain favors to France, Portugal, and Italy. Germany has demanded these reductions under the most-favored-nation clause, but the United States at first refused to admit her claim. The belief, however, that German industrial produce will at once benefit by important tariff reductions is erroneous, as the Franco-American treaty has not yet been ratified. Until it has been ratified, we need not expect reductions."

The Agrarians are least satisfied. America, they contend, has thrown a sprat to catch a whale. "The upshot is," says the Deutsche Tages-Zeitung, "that Germany is to be weakened by granting reciprocity in the future commercial treaties, and that the special tariffs against her most important industries remain in force."

But if American sugar does not benefit by a reduction, neither will the German Government relax its restrictions on the importation of American meats. The Hamburg Correspondent says:

"The question of the sugar bounties has not been touched at all; neither has reference been made to the treatment accorded to American meat; and the question of the American insurance companies in Germany has also been left out of the negotiations, unless, as is probable, some separate understanding has been arrived at regarding these matters. But whatever may be the actual value of the agreement, an important step has been taken toward establishing the former pleasant commercial relations with the United States."

A writer in the Nation (Berlin) expresses himself to the following effect: "The dissatisfaction of the Agrarians is probably due to the fact that they really wish for a tariff war, in order to exclude American agricultural produce. But this would force Germany to follow the lead of the United States and France. In both these countries the aim is to exclude foreign goods by high protective tariffs, and to obtain free entrance of their own produce into other countries. Both have been over-ripe. Their systems can be copied. In Germany many people, even in industrial circles, begin to admire protective tariffs which exclude competition. It does not seem, however, that France and the United States are successful in their aims. They can exclude foreign goods, but they can not at the same time obtain free markets for their own in all other countries. France has been embroiled in a number of tariff wars which have been disastrous to her commerce. The United States is just warring off such struggles. Germany, as France in 1892 and the United States in 1897, is about to create a new tariff. It is to be hoped that she will continue to be moderate rather than to adopt a policy which necessitates the juggling with maximum and minimum tariffs."

It will be seen that the Germans are not inclined to flatter themselves that they have obtained important advantages. The Journal des Debats (Paris) remarks that there is really little cause for congratulations, as the American Congress appears unwilling to ratify the Franco-American treaty. The paper hopes that this ratification will take place after the Presidential elections. The Saturday Review (London) credits Germany with having obtained an important victory over what it describes as the tendency of the United States to take all she can get and give nothing in return. That paper says:

"The German Government has scored a success in its diplomatic duel with the United States. After a very protracted discussion the latter have given way practically on all points. The terrible reprisals, which were to follow on the passage of the Meat Inspection Bill, appear to have been warily abandoned and the Americans have made up their minds not to jeopardize their German trade for the sake of resenting what was described as a most insulting measure. The whole matter was a business transaction in which as usual the United States endeavored by superior 'smartness' to obtain everything while yielding nothing in return. Germany had always interpreted the treaty of 1833 between America and Prussia, and taken over by the empire, as entitling each country to the most-favored-nation treatment. The United States took the characteristic line that they were so entitled but Germany was not, and that in return for special favors granted by France, or Italy, or Portugal, as the case might be, they might

Germany could not claim under the treaty. This old familiar process of argument did not prove so acceptable to the shrewd negotiators of the Fatherland as it has frequently done elsewhere. The result is a sensible business arrangement satisfactory to both sides. This matter and its conclusion should not be without its instructive side for our own statesmen."

The Bulletin hastens to assure simple souls who believe all they read that Mr. Sewall always had a pious wish for party harmony but had been thwarted by divers "black-hearted scoundrels" on the other side. This is so sad. But if he is the same Sewall who arose in a Sunday morning political conference a few weeks ago, denounced the Dole men as traitors and urged that they be thereafter ignored by the Republican party, he is in less danger from "black-hearted scoundrels" than he is of having those yearnings for harmony strike in and affect his liver.

### OF CURRENT INTEREST.

#### Ring Up Fares

Brooklyn is said to be the only city in the country where surface car conductors ring up the full list of fares before collecting a cent, a custom born of the scrupulous honesty of the residents of the City of Churches. In no other city, asserts Victor Smith, are people so often and so generally taken on trust. The practice not infrequently causes trouble for both road and conductor. Recently a new man took a car on a popular line, and when every seat and every inch of standing room were occupied by a lot of picnickers he rang up fares to the number of forty-six, pulled the rope and started off. When the car had gone about a block someone cried, "Where's this car going, conductor?" Being informed he exclaimed, "Fellows, we are on the wrong car; all off!" And every blessed one got off, leaving the conductor to account as best he could for his registered \$2.30.

#### Listen to Bryan, Vote For McKinley.

"Four years ago you could hear of nothing except the great crowds that turned out to hear Bryan," remarked an observing Indiana man the other day. "It was said to be the greatest popular uprising in the history of American politics, and that, with the people so palpably with him, he could not be defeated. But he was defeated, and defeated badly. People went to hear and see Bryan because he was new and entertaining, and something in the nature of a circus. The traits in Bryan that made people flock to see him led them also to vote for McKinley. The American people have been misled and deceived by a wearer of the cap and bells, but they don't want four years of continuous performance in the White House."

#### Hay as Agile as a Boy

Though past 60, and of slight figure, Secretary Hay has the agility of a boy, and the strength of an athlete, according to Walter Wellman. He is fond of outdoor sports and exercises of all kinds, but in Washington finds time only for a long, rapid walk every afternoon. His companion on these jaunts, which more resemble the work of an athlete in training than the leisurely sauntering of a sedentary, is generally Henry Adams, the historian, who is Mr. Hay's next door neighbor. Secretary Hay is also a great believer in massage. Every morning at 7 o'clock one of the most skillful masseurs in America rings at his door, and for an hour puts him through the paces.

#### American Competition Felt.

An American shoe trade organ quotes one of the travelling salesmen of a Liverpool house as follows: "In looking backwards one feels that the spring season has been especially noteworthy in respect to one peculiar item, namely, every commercial traveler representing a British house has felt American competition to be a real live fact, and far from being the bogey it was said to be some time back. Slowly the American shoe trade have advanced and spread themselves around, adapting themselves to the wants of each particular market with a cleverness which will always make them formidable competitors."

#### Not a Good Defense.

In the New York courts the other day a Boston man was brought up charged with the desertion and non-support of his wife. His defense was that his wife had consulted an astrologer, who told her that she was destined to be married at least twice. "I was her first husband," said the accused man, "and I saw that it was up to me to get a move on. I had to either die or skip again, and I preferred to skip." The court, however, declined to follow that line of reasoning, and put the man under bonds to support his wife, regardless of the astrologer's horoscope.

#### Waiting For the Last Call.

In the retirement of his old fashioned, but comfortable home in New York City, William Maxwell Everts is quietly awaiting the end. Mr. Everts, who was 82 years old in February last, has been attorney general of the United States, secretary of state, and United States senator. Though physically quite feeble, he is still clear and acute of mind, and takes much interest in law affairs.

#### The Prince Carries a Gun.

The Prince of Wales, while abroad this summer, will, it is said, always go armed as well as guarded by the usual detectives. Since the recent attack upon his life the prince has awakened to the necessity of armed precaution, and, as he is a first-rate pistol shot, an encounter with a would-be assassin would not now be so one-sided as has hitherto been the case.

#### Women as Bank Presidents.

Women as bank presidents are not numerous, but Mrs. Anthony Meinhardt is president of a bank in Burlington, Wis. Her son is vice president, and her daughter cashier. Mrs. E. S. Tome, widow of Jacob Tome, is president of the Cecil National bank, of Port Deposit, Md.

#### Rye Straw Paper Next.

Experts who have examined rye straw are of the opinion that a very high grade of paper, not only adapted to newspapers, but suitable for books as well, can be made from that material, of which Louisiana produces thousands of tons that are now gotten rid of as a waste product.

#### Tolstoi Good For Ten Years Yet.

Count Leo Tolstoi's health is much improved, and, instead of expecting death almost any day, as was the case with him last spring, his physicians now say he may live ten years to come.

## "Be Strong in the Battle of Life."

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